

31. (New) The ink receiving medium according to claim 30 wherein said surfactant comprises sodium salt of dioctyl sulfosuccinate.

32. (New) The ink receiving medium according to claim 22 wherein the pigment management system comprises water-soluble multivalent salt and said salt comprises aluminum sulfate.

Remarks

Claims 1-11 have been cancelled. New claims 22-32 have been added. Claims 22-32 are pending and claims 12-21 have been restricted.

Support for new claim 22 can be found in the specification, for example, on page 4, line 16 through page 5, line 2.

The Present Invention

Applicants' invention is an ink receiving medium which comprises a nonwoven macroporous substrate having a fluid management system and having a pigment management system in contact with surfaces of macropores of the substrate therein. The nonwoven macroporous substrate of the invention comprises fibers selected from the group consisting of cotton, flax, hemp, ramie, burlap, wool, silk, rayon, acrylic, polyolefin, polystyrene and block copolymers thereof with butadiene, polyester, polyamide, polyarylsulfones, poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(ethylene vinyl acetate), polyacrylates, polycarbonates, cellulosic polymers, polyimides; polyurethanes, and combinations thereof.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-3, 5-6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bussell et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,192,363).

Claims 1-3, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Imashiro et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,177,197).

Claims 1, 2, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi (U.S. Pat. No. 5,126,010).

All of the above claims have been cancelled, rendering the above rejection moot.

Bussell et al., Imashiro et al., and Kobayashi disclosed image recording media wherein the substrate of the recording media is made from paper. Applicants' claimed substrate is a nonwoven material comprising fibers other than paper. For at least this reason, Bussell et al.,

Imashiro et al., and Kobayashi do not anticipate the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants' respectfully submit that claims 22-32 are novel over Bussell et al., Imashiro et al., and Kobayashi.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Bussell et al. or Imashiro et al. in view of Applicants' statement of prior art. Claims 1-11 have been cancelled, rendering the above rejection moot.

Bussell et al. and Imashiro et al. disclosed image recording media wherein the substrate is made from paper.

Applicants' "Background of the Invention" states:

"Inkjet and spray jet printing using dye-based inks is one method of manufacturing printed porous substrates such as textiles. Printed dyes may be "fixed" with dye mordants to improve waterfastness. Inkjet printing is well-suited for, among other things, short printing run and high resolution applications.

Pigment-based inks are commonly applied to porous substrates such as textiles by screen-printing methods, and are typically more durable than dye-based inks. In order to retain the pigment on the textile, a binder resin is employed to provide a means for anchoring the pigment to the textile. Screen-printing inks have viscosities that far exceed the maximum viscosities that may be successfully printed by inkjet methods. Additionally, the binder resins used in screen inks generally lend a stiffer (i.e., aesthetically undesirable) hand to the textile than if the same textile had been dyed. Screen printing is not a technology well-suited to short run printing in that a considerable effort is required to change screens and/or ink colors.

Dye-based inks generally suffer from poor stability compared to pigment-based inks, especially when lightfastness and waterfastness are considered.

There exists a need to provide durable lightfast and waterfast articles that combine the advantages of lightfastness, waterfastness, soft hand, and high resolution."

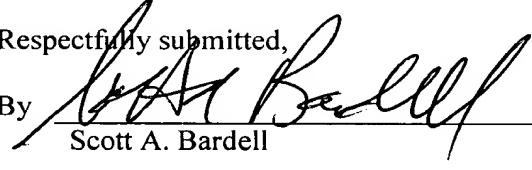
The combination of the references as suggested by the Patent Office does not result in Applicants' invention as claimed. Such a combination results in image recording media having a porous substrate made of paper or presumably textiles. Applicants' macroporous ink receiving media of the invention comprises a macroporous substrate that is nonwoven and comprises non-paper materials. Applicants' claimed invention is neither taught nor suggested by the cited references, nor has the Patent Office provided any disclosure in the art that provide any motivation or incentive to modify Bussell et al. or Imashiro et al. so to obtain the present invention as claimed. For at least these reasons, Applicants' claimed image receiving media is non-obvious over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants' respectfully submit that claims 1-11 are allowable over the cited art.

In view of the above discussion, Applicants' respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested. Formal notice of allowance of claims 22-32 is solicited. The undersigned invites Examiner Grendzynski to telephone the undersigned if Examiner Grendzynski believes that such a call would be helpful to the prosecution of the present application.

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Date- 9 August, 2009	

Respectfully submitted,

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